

# AirTracer Operation Manual



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# 1. Important equipment-related safeguards

## **Fog Machine Safety: Read Before You Use**

**Caution:** Misuse can lead to burns, slips, and can trigger smoke detectors.

### **Safety:**

- Smoke can potentially trigger smoke detectors in enclosed spaces.
- Components can get extremely hot during operation. Avoid touching inner components.
- Be aware that fog can reduce visibility.
- Fog fluid can make surfaces slippery. Clean up any spills promptly and dispose of the fluid according to local regulations.
- Hot liquid droplets may also spray out. Never point the fog machine directly at people.

### **Health Considerations:**

- Fog fluid is harmful if swallowed. Keep it out of reach of children and pets. If swallowed, seek medical attention immediately.
- While generally safe, fog machines may irritate those with respiratory problems or allergies. It's best to avoid direct contact with the fog if you have these conditions.

### **Storage Location:**

- Place the fog machine on a stable, non-flammable surface that's at least twice the size of the machine itself.
- Keep at least 3 feet away from anything flammable, combustible, or heat-sensitive.

### **Fluid:**

- Only use cartridges provided by Retrotec.
- Do not attempt to refill cartridges.

## 2. Introducing the AirTracer

Introducing the AirTracer from Retrotec: a handheld smoke generator/fogger designed for pinpointing air leaks in buildings. Priced affordably, the AirTracer is an ideal choice for professionals looking for a dependable building diagnostic tool.

With a simple press of a button, the AirTracer releases smoke in a second, allowing for easy leak identification when used alongside a blower door or duct tester. The device efficiently vaporizes a glycol-based solution, resulting in dense smoke output.

The AirTracer comes with two easy-to-replace cartridges, each capable of delivering up to 10 minutes of smoke. The digital display starts at "99" and counts down as you use the device, letting you know when it's time to change the cartridge.

The included tube attachment functions as a specialized smoke diffuser, allowing for precise placement by directing the smoke exactly where it's needed. This targeted diffusion causes the smoke output to settle on surfaces rather than dispersing, ensuring thorough inspections and more reliable results.

### Key Features

- Instant smoke generation
- Easy to use
- Fast USB-C charging
- Smoke diffuser attachment included
- Easy cartridge replacement system

## 3. Included Items

Each AirTracer purchase includes:

- 1 x AirTracer
- 1 x USB-C Charging Cable
- 2 x Smoke Fluid Cartridges
- 1 x Smoke Diffuser Attachment
- 1 x AirTracer Carrying/Storage Case



## 4. Operation

### 4.1 Charging the battery

The AirTracer is partially charged at the factory, but you should plug it in to ensure a full charge before each test. Connect a USB-C cable to the bottom of the AirTracer, and charge via wall outlet.

A fully charged AirTracer will last for approximately 45-60 minutes without a recharge. It is estimated that the smoke machine's power could support 3-4 smoke containers before needing a recharge.

The battery level is indicated on the main button of the AirTracer.

- Green means fully charged.
- Blue “flashing” button indicates it’s time to charge.
- Red means low/dead battery.



### 4.1 Powering On/Off

Press & hold the power button to turn on off the AirTracer.

The AirTracer turns off automatically when not in use.

### 4.2 Inserting Smoke Cartridge

Remove any rubber inserts from the Cartridge before use. The fluid cartridge is connected atop the AirTracer. The cartridge only fits in one direction.

Once a fluid cartridge is empty, simply replace with a new cartridge. Refer to the cartridge replacement instructions below for additional information.



### 4.3 Using the Diffuser Attachment

The included tube attachment functions as a specialized smoke diffuser, allowing for precise placement by directing the smoke exactly where it's needed. This targeted diffusion causes the smoke output to settle or “sit” on surfaces rather than dispersing.

Attach fluid cartridge onto the AirTracer as normal. Insert windscreens head atop one end of the diffuser tube. Insert the other end of the tube into the AirTracer cartridge.

Rest the windscreens on your surface bring tested & press the AirTracer trigger.



## 4.1 Reading the Screen

### 4.1.1. Number Countdown

By default, the AirTracer showcases its inserted fluid cartridge life level. The digital display starts at "99" and counts down as you use the device, letting you know when it's time to change the cartridge.

### 4.1.2. Error Notifications

If the AirTracer screen reads "Err," or "this stands for "error." Turn off the AirTracer, uninstall and reinstall the fluid cartridge, ensure the AirTracer is charged, and turn back on. This should reset the AirTracer.

Similarly, if the AirTracer reads "E2" when installing a cartridge, uninstall and reinstall the fluid cartridge to ensure a fill connection.

## 4.2 Running the AirTracer

To run the AirTracer:

- Remove the leak-preventing plugs from a fluid cartridge, and install atop the AirTracer
- Ensure the AirTracer is charged. Press and hold the button to Turn On.
- Press and hold the button to generate smoke.
- The AirTracer will power off after not being in use.

## 4.1 Overheating Protection

The AirTracer has built-in overheating protection. It automatically halts smoke output when holding down the trigger for +/- ~10 seconds.

If a high enough temperature is reached, the AirTracer will automatically stop for up to approximately 3 minutes to cool down.

Ensure to read the "Important equipment-related safeguards" at the beginning of this manual. Misuse of the AirTracer can cause burns, slips, and even trigger smoke detectors.

## 5. Fluid Cartridge Usage & Replacements

Each AirTracer comes with two easy-to-install cartridges. One oil container lasts for about 900 seconds (15 minutes) of continuous use.

Additional cartridges are sold in packs of 3.

## 6. Storage

Remove fluid cartridges from AirTracer when not in use.

Ensure rubber stopper plugs are in each corresponding orifice, as this helps to prevent leakage. Note that it is normal/inevitable that some leakage can occur. As such, we recommend storing the AirTracer in its provided case.

Place the fog machine on a stable, non-flammable surface that's at least twice the size of the machine itself. Keep it at least 3 feet (90 cm) away from anything flammable, combustible, or heat-sensitive.